THE TENNESSEE FARMER.

How much more delightful to an undebauched mind is the task of making improvements on the earth than all the vain glory which can be acquired from ravaging it, by the most uninterrupted career of conquests,"—WASHINGTON.

PUBLISHED BY EMMERSON & DEADERICK.] [J. F. DEADERICK, EDITOR

Vol. III.—No. 12.] JONESBOROUGH, DECEMBER, 1838. [Whole No. 48.

TERMS.

THE TENNESSEE FARMER, is published monthly at $1,50 per annum, but $1 will be received if paid in advance. Payments made within three months of the commencement of the year will be considered in advance.

All subscriptions must commence with the year.

No subscriptions discontinued, but at the option of the Editor, until all arrearages are paid.

All letters on business in any way connected with the Tennessee Farmer must be addressed to Emmerson & Deaderick, Jonesborough Ten., and in order to ensure attention must be POST PAID.

According to the decision of the POST MASTER GENERAL, the Tennessee Farmer is subject only to newspaper postage, viz: one cent for each number within the State or within one hundred miles from Jonesboro', out of the State; one and a half cents to any other part of the U. States.

COMMUNICATIONS.

SPRING WHEAT.

MR. EDITOR:—You kindly furnished me last Spring with about 1 1-4 ounce of Italian Spring Wheat—which I sowed on the 12th of April, (as soon as received.) I prepared a portion of land in my garden, which is the grey oak and hickory limestone land of second quality. The spot consisted of a drill of 25 by 1 foot dimensions, dug up with a hoe, and manured with stable manure, but lightly.

It came up and grew very pretty. But the heads came out irregular, and so ripened. The rust and blast affected it smartly, and after ripening, my fowls took some of it. I reaped it as it ripened from the 15th to the 20th of July, and got it out carefully by hand, and saved 10 oz. of very pretty wheat, though not so full and large as the seed was, owing to the rust. I shall sow what I have, and and earlier next Spring than last, I think at least a month.

I hope others, to whom you have distributed this kind of wheat, will give us the result of their experiments. Wishing success to agriculture and your valuable little paper,

I remain your ob't sv't,

R. M. AYCOCK.

Lafayette, Ga., Oct. 30, 1838.

TALL MEADOW OAT GRASS.

Mr. Editor:—Amongst the numerous grasses of our country, there is one which I think has not received its due share of attention. I mean the Tall Meadow Oat Grass, sometimes called the Peruvian Grass.

It affords an abundant supply of pasturage from a very early to a very late season.—The best season for seeding is in the Fall, at the rate of about two bushels to the acre.—The young plants are very hardy, and will survive the winter uninjured. The ground should be well prepared before seeding, and harrowed and rolled afterwards. When well set on good soil it yields abundantly.

Respectfully,

WILSON L. WATERS.

Three Forks, Wilson co., Ten., November 21st, 1838.

P. S.—For further information respecting the above mentioned grass, I would refer your readers to the American Farmer, Vol. 12, page 403; vol. 13, page 26 and 159; vol. 14, page 386, where some of them will see that it is not the Rye Grass, which I understand they have asserted as a fact.

CLINTON COLLEGE, Nov. 23, 1838.

Dear Sir: This morning I read in the Tennessee Farmer for this month, a communication from Mr. Steele, of South Carolina, in which he asks whether he ought to save his 20 acres of swamp in herds grass, or give up his land as unprofitable? Whether weeds will be troublesome in it? &c. To which

you judiciously answer that it may probably be the best land he has, if put in herdsgrass; but you go on to recommend him to drain his swamp first. For the benefit of Mr. S., I beg leave to make a suggestion or two.—Herdsgrass is a growth of Southern climates, and will prosper finely in the latitude of S. Carolina. It is also a native of swamps, (though it prospers on dry land) and will prosper, though the water cover it all winter. In countries not much impregnated with lime, the swamp is the home of herdsgrass. And as to draining, there is no need of it, if his swamp is dry enough to allow him to get a stand at all. If the land be perpetually covered with water, he cannot get a stand of grass; but if it is uncovered 6 or 7 months in the year, he *can* get a stand by thick and repeated sowings; and then his meadow will be better than if drained. As you remark, the herdsgrass will make such a sod as to bear a loaded waggon. That grass is slow in maturing, requiring from 3 to 7 years to arrive at perfection; when its sod is so dense, especially in the swamp, that there appears not to be room for another sprig of grass. And because it is thus tardy, I would advise Mr. S. to sow timothy with his herdsgrass, say 1 1-2 or 2 gallons of timothy to the acre. The timothy will come immediately, and keep down all weeds, till his herdsgrass can take the ground by exterminating the timothy, this it will effectually do about the 3d year. In the mean time, mowing his timothy once a year, will enable it to keep all weeds down. It might cost Mr. S. $500 to drain his swamp, and then it would be less profitable, if he can get a stand without it, than if not drained at all. The undrained swamp is a meadow *naturally irrigated*, affording moisture enough at all seasons to afford a luxuriant crop. To drain it, would be to destroy the advantages of irrigation. These remarks are predicated upon practical knowledge and observation. And I am certain that a perfectly drained and dry swamp is not so good for meadow as upland impregnated with lime enough to make it porous; but the irrigated meadow surpasses any that can be made.

On the 19th, the Convention of Agricultural Societies met at Lebanon. Only three counties were represented, Sumner, Smith and Wilson. Nevertheless, there was a spirit universal among the Delegates, ominous of future improvement. You shall have the proceedings and report in due time. A general convention 1st Monday in May next was resolved upon, and we hope that all papers in the State friendly to Agriculture, will keep the matter alive, so as to cause a general delegation from all the counties in the State. And it is to be hoped also that all farmers will look forward to that Convention, as the dawn of agricultural *rights*, and *agricultural improvement*. Meantime, your humble servant may be expected to lend his feeble aid.

Respectfully, F. H. Gordon.

TO MAKE LEAVEN BREAD.

To make Leaven.—Take equal quantities of sifted corn meal and wheat flour, and add as much new cider when it begins to work, as will be sufficient to make it into dough; make it into small cakes about three inches in diameter, and half an inch thick. Dry them perfectly in a shade, and they will be ready for use all winter.

To make Bread.—Take one of those leaven cakes, and dissolve it into a cup of warm water; add a sufficiency of new milk to work up three quarts of wheat flour; add as much butter or lard and salt as is common to make buiscuit; let it remain one night in a warm situation to rise; make it into cakes, and let them remain about five minutes in the oven, before baking, to complete the rising; then bake with a quick fire.

Thomas Batte.

Sept. 28, 1838.

If you happen to live in a house that has marble fireplaces, never wash them with suds, this destroys the polish in time. They should be dusted, the spots taken off with an oiled cloth, and then rubbed dry with a soft rag.

If you wish to preserve fine teeth, always clean them thoroughly after eating your last meal at night.

TENNESSEE FARMER.

Jonesborough, December 1, 1838.

OUR FOURTH VOLUME.

We take great pleasure in announcing to our subscribers that, should no contingency arise to place such a measure beyond our control, we shall enlarge the size of this paper to an imperial sheet, and endeavor materially to improve its typographical appearance, with the commencement of another year.—This improvement will not affect the present price of the paper, which will still continue to be $1 in advance. With this effort to meet public expectation with regard to this work, may we not justly calculate on an increase of our circulation, and that *all* our friends, who can conscientiously do so, will make one more effort to obtain us additional subscribers.

With this increase of our space, we propose also receiving a few advertisements, of a strictly agricultural character, which will be inserted at the usual rates.

THE PUBLISHERS.

THE SILK CULTURE IN THE U. STATES.

This branch of domestic industry has acquired such a prominence in the public eye, and promises practically to enlist the capital and enterprise of so many of our citizens, that we cannot permit the year to run out without yielding it a more special notice than it has hitherto had at our hands. No longer to be regarded as a doubtful experiment, or visionary speculation, it may indeed justly claim a most important rank in the agricultural systems of the country, and richly deserves the notice and encouragement of all who desire to witness the progressive developpement of the national resources, and our farther independence on other countries for articles of domestic consumption.

The practicability of the silk enterprise is now very generally admitted by all candid men who have given the subject proper attention. For about 60 years past, silk has been annually produced in the cold ungenial climate of Connecticut: and if valuable varieties of the mulberry will survive the winters of New England, as is actually the fact under certain modes of treatment, and silk be profitably produced there, it may be most rationally argued that the production of this beautiful fabric in the South, with its vastly superior adaptations, is a demonstrated problem—unclouded by scarcely a shade of incertitude.

Yet, with this admission freely made, and notwithstanding the great parade which has existed about the general introduction of the silk culture into this country, and the wonderful exploits of particular silk-growers among us, it must, on the other hand, be confessed that very little has, actually, been accomplished in the production of raw material or fabric, and that the business is yet in its extreme infancy, so far as positive results or the national interests are concerned. The statistics of the silk culture in the United States, so far as they have been ascertained, show this fact most clearly—presenting comparatively meagre returns after the busy "note of preparation" which has been so long and so clamorously sounded.

This state of things, however, is most easily accounted for; and has no bearing whatever upon the practicability of the silk culture, or its vast intrinsic importance to these U. States. Very many persons have invested money in mulberry plantations with the sincere intention of feeding the worm and manufacturing silk. But finding such great demand for, and such high profits in the sale of mulberry cuttings and trees, they have almost invariably consented to postpone their ultimate object for the present tempting advantages of this traffic. Accordingly, a vast deal of money—indeed handsome fortunes, have already been realized in the sale of mulberry plants; in which speculation, we believe, *all* (perhaps without exception) who have had trees or cuttings to sell, have engaged, and while human cupidity remains unchanged, and men continue to prefer present profits to remote gains for themselves or the country, we may expect this state of things to exist until the markets shall be completely glutted

and then we may hope to see the manufacture of silk actually progress, and this article become, as we do think it is destined to be, a staple production of this country. As the mulberry trees propagate in a ratio so geometrically rapid, we may indulge the hope that a few more seasons will suffice to supply the immediate wants of all. And, indeed, we cannot perceive any thing very seriously to censure in this species of traffic, where no fraud is committed, (unless it be the exorbitant profits so coolly pocketed) as it is widely disseminating the means of growing silk, and meeting the wishes of the many individuals who design going into the business, and who are willing to pay the prices demanded. It may, therefore, we think, without irony, be called "a fair transaction"—more especially, as the ultimate hopes held out to the silk-grower are not, probably, destined to disappointment.

Like some mighty river, the roar of whose waters waxes louder and more loud as it sweeps onward to the ocean, the Silk (or at least the Mulberry) mania has steadily strengthened and extended itself, until in some parts of the country it has attained a very high state of excitement, which still does not seem to be its ultimatum. We might here give expression to the amusement we have felt in witnessing the paroxysms of this fever —the very general prevalence of its symptoms—even the clear, cool and grave head infected almost to vertigo—some who had hitherto stood somewhat aloof from the atmosphere of the epidemic, and rather sneered at its prevalence, themselves its now excited subjects—the sectional contentions for the Mulberry purchasers—the wagers, so gallantly, tendered upon the trees of the North against the trees of the South, &c. &c. &c. But the subject is a serious and important one, nationally; and the lover of his country who will turn to the officially reported amount of our importations and consumption of foreign silks, will soon forget the ludicrous points of this excitement in the earnest hope that it may eventuate in the general adoption and permanent success of this highly promising and important enterprize. And as it *always* should be with every good government, so, *in this case* the national and individual interests *are* identical. Scarcely a resident family of village or country in the whole land, but might find it personally profitable to produce silk according to its means and preparation. And this preparation is, by no means, formidable. The labor is light, pleasant and healthful, and its appliances unexpensive. Many of the beautiful silks of China, are said to be wrought by individual families, with fixtures of the simplest, cheapest and even rudest construction. But these individual producers are vastly numerous; and hence the large aggregate of their manufactures of this fabric. The tendency of things in our own country would seem, now, to point to this result. A gentleman from Virginia, who recently visited the East, for the purpose of personal enquiry into the state of the silk culture here, says that the silk companies are doing comparatively little, besides puffing their establishments, and that to witness the practical details of the business, you must go into private families, where alone the actual culture is making any considerable progress.* This state of things is by no means discouraging. One of the strongest inducements to the adoption of the Silk culture in the U. States is its extremely happy adaptation to the capacities, means and interests of individual families, and especially the families of farmers throughout the States. Very little preparation and expense are necessary to enable almost any household (especially in the country) to engage in the business, on a scale commensurate with its means and circumstances. And bringing into employment the supernumerary and otherwise unavailable hands in the family, and thus interferring, very immaterially, with the main work on the farm, its general adoption by our our agricultural population, would at once develope new and handsome resources for them, while

---

*See Farmer's Register vol. 6. p. 419.

the aggregate of their labors would add materially to the wealth and independence of the nation.

It is a highly attenuated fastidiousness which objects to this enterprize. That its abundant success is a matter of no intrinsic value to our people, and would only minister to an undue luxury, pride and ostentation.—It is, no doubt, truly estimated that silk can be produced at a much cheaper rate than cotton—with less toil of man and beast, and far less waste & deterioration of the soil demanded for its culture. As a certainly more durable article of apparel than the latter fabric, there exists, therefore, no objection against it but its extreme lustre and beauty—an objection that will lie, with equal force, against the exquisite grace and loveliness of shade shape and color, with which Providence has seen fit to clothe the flowers and vegetation generally, of the garden, field and forest.—Like the fruitless effort to fix a standard of taste, it is, indeed, a difficult task to ascertain the precise point, at which the necessities merge with the luxuries of life. In the process of civilization and refinement the latter imperceptibly and naturally transmute themselves into the former; and as our passions, once indulged, are ever hurrying us to extremes, the bounds of moderation and conscience are, often, soon transcended in the eager rapidity of this fascinating progression, This admitted, we cannot nevertheless, apprehend any great moral disaster in the realization of the prospect(a remote one certainly) when every yeoman in the land shall clothe his family in native silks of the richest texture and most lustrous dies.

Believing that it would be interesting to our readers we propose, in our next volome giving them a short treatise on the culture of silk from the pen of Gideon B. Smith of Baltimore—perhaps the highest authority in the United States on this subject—now in course of publication in the Farmer's Register. We would commence its publication in this number, but as we cannot conveniently give it entire at one impression, we defer it that the whole may come into one volume.

MANUAL LABOUR COLLEGES.

It is gratifying to witness the multiplication of these institutions, notwithstanding the fact that some of them already in existence in the Western country have not been crowned with any very signal success. These failures, where they have occurred, must undoubtedly have been the result of an improper application of the principle upon which these schools are founded; and not because of any defect in the principle itself. It is a truism which need scarcely be stated that the moderate exercise of the animal system promotes the life and vigor of the intellectual man. How much better then to apply this salutary toil to the useful and lucrative purposes of life, than to waste it upon the wild school-boy sports which serve only to beget rude habits, and stir up the bad passions of the heart.

It is indeed a most meagre definition of the term —education—to apply it merely and exclusively to the cultivation of the mental faculties. The proper developement of the moral energies is a matter of even greater importance than the abstract elevation of the intellect; and, half-animal as we are, it is the grossest folly to neglect the necessary discipline of our physical nature. Indeed all these so intimately and mutually act the one upon the other, that no system of education can be perfect which fails in the judicious cultivation and developement of either.

We would, by no means, be understood as intimating that manual labor schools can obviate all defects in our existing systems of education. But, if properly managed, there is no doubt that the daily toil of the students, while it contributes to their support, will not interfere with, but rather promote their progress in study, and give them at least some more than ordinary preparation for the practical realities of life. As an incidental object, also, of great interest and importance; these institutions are probably destined to become schools of Scientific Agriculture. If it is in bad taste to have banished the science of agriculture from our Universities and Col-

leges, surely it would be suicidal policy in our manual labor schools to follow this wretched example. Nothing could be more natural, proper and desirable than to have the lands on which the students labor laid out and cultivated as pattern farms, in illustration of the science systematically, and judiciously taught through a Professorship of agriculture.

A manual labor institution in our neighborhood, Henry and Emory College in Washington county Virginia, has in fact announced its purpose to carry out this very measure in its future practice. At a late meeting of its Board "a sixth department was added to the Collegiate course, viz: Agriculture, Chemistry and scientific Farming," under the operation of which measure, the plantation is to be laid out as a model farm so soon as the Professorship can be adequately filled; Several of the Mechanic arts are also to be scientifically as well as practically taught.

This is a most worthy example which reflects the highest credit upon the managers of this Institution. We hope for the most signal success to the enterprize generally; and would earnestly commend the particular measure we have specified, to the especial notice of every Manual Labor Institution in the country, which has not already adopted the same, or something similar.

THE LATE AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION AT LEBANON.

The proceedings of this body will be found on another page of this number. Although thinly attended, it will be perceived that its deliberations and measures were spirited and judicious—evincive of an unflagging zeal and an undisheartened perseverance.

We trust the convention appointed to meet in May next, will attract a more general interest and a fuller attendance. Shall it be so, farmers of Tennessee? or, this effort to do something for our agriculture ending in abortion, are you contented indefinitely to postpone all concentrated effort to improve your condition? Can nothing be done to stimulate to efficient action in this matter?—If the farmers *will* fold their arms, might we not, with propriety, appeal to professional men, merchants and mechanics, all of whom have a deep and vital stake in the prosperity of agriculture, to aid, by their expressed approbation and active influence, in exciting an interest in this subject, throughout our farming communities? But, above all, we would invoke the hearty aid of the periodical press, which can do more, in this matter, perhaps, than all other influences, with the least trouble in the world, and with no sacrifice whatever of personal interest. Will the conductors of journals throughout the state neglect so easy and cheap and urgent an opportunity of effecting a great deal of vital and permanent good? We hope for better things, and wait the result with interest, pledging ourselves, nothing preventing, to recur to this matter again.

While on this subject, we would add a word or two in relation to the confusion alleged to have been produced, in the public mind, with regard to the time and place of the convention's sitting by "an anonymous writer in the Tennessee Farmer," who had proposed a convention at Murfreesborough, in February next. The communication alluded to, was received several weeks before the receipt of the notice from the Smith county Agricultural Society; and contained the first intimation we had had that a convention of any kind was in contemplation. We presume that our correspondent was equally ignorant of the intentions of the S. C. A. Society.—Indeed, the date of his communication compared with that of the meeting of the Society, proves this fully. So that, although some misunderstanding may have been created, no censure should attach to our correspondent, but rather praise for his patriotic suggestion. The coincidence is only another indication that the spirit of improvement is, simultaneously, influencing many minds amongst us, all which will no doubt be found at the proper time, harmoniously united to promote the best interests of our agriculture.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRIES FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

A correspondent from Lagado, Te., enquires if it would not be advisable to memorialize the Legislature for the establishment, by the State, of a Depot of new and valuable seeds for distribution among our farmers.—The project is an admirable one; but whether it would not be labour lost to propose it to our State authorities, is another question altogether. Our Legislature *might not* treat such a proposition with the contempt we would anticipate for it; and it would, therefore, not be amiss to make the trial. Indeed while we can find no justification for that marked neglect with which our State authorities have treated our agricultural interests, it is certainly an extenuating circumstance in their case, that our farmers have *never*, as a body, that we are aware of, asked for legislative favour as a boon, or demanded it as a right. In this view of the matter, it might be altogether expedient to remind our rulers of their duties, by memorial, as suggested by our correspondent.

Mr. Wm. Steele, of South Carolina, enquires how many cattle an acre of grass will pasture through a season. There is so great a difference in the productiveness of different soils and in the rapidity of growth of the different grasses, and also in farmers' notions as to what is and is not *keeping* stock—some supposing they are doing a fair business with their stock when kept just beyond the grasp of starvation, and others verging to the other extreme, that it is impracticable, in answer to this question, to fix upon an average estimate which shall suit every variety of soil and climate. We might mention, however, that Von Thaer, who is high authority, seems to think that two head of cattle per acre are sufficient for the grazing districts of Europe. In Kentucky the estimate is perhaps greater—varying, of course, on different soils and in different seasons. We will suggest to Mr. Steele however, that he will probably sustain no final loss by not running his pasture as close as it might *seem* able to bear. A moderate growth left to protect the roots of the grass against the frosts of winter, or even to wither or die on the soil, will, no doubt, make repayment with interest, in the crop of the succeeding year.

A subscriber writes us, "Your subscribers here wish you to publish and forward the contents of the preceding and current volumes of the Tennessee Farmer, as they wish to have them bound. Also, has the first volume been re-published?" The indexes will be made out and duly forwarded, now that the volume is completed. The broken numbers of the 1st volume having passed into other hands, we are unable to say when the numbers wanting to complete the set will be reprinted.

NOTICES.

The first number of *The Mechanic*, a weekly paper published at Indianapolis, Ia., by Comingore & Gilmore at $1 50 per annum, has reached us. It is devoted more especially to the interest indicated by its title, but appropriates a portion of its space to Agriculture, and promises to be conducted with spirit.

The Indiana Farmer, a larger work than the last mentioned, published weekly, at the same place, by Osborn and Willetts, at $2 per year, has recently commenced its second volume, greatly improved in form and appearance. We have felt a considerable interest in the success of this work, and hope to see it placed upon a substantial and permanent basis. It is conducted with ability.

We have received several numbers of a new work, entitled *The Farmer's Advocate*, published semi-monthly at Jamestown, N. C. by John Sherwood, at $1 25 per year. We should suppose that the farming of N. Carolina would furnish ample material for the labors of an agricultural paper—this being, we believe, the only work of its kind in the State.

We have neglected, hitherto, noticing *The Buckeye Plough-Boy*, a clever work published at Cleaveland, Ohio, by James Kull, at 50 cents; and also,

The Practical Farmer, published monthly, at Mechanicsburg, Pa., at 62 1-2 cents per year—J. D. Rupp, Editor. We would commend the latter to our German population, in this region, as a cheap work conducted with much sound judgment by a countryman of their own.

PLOUGHS AND PLOUGHING MATCHES.

Perhaps the progress of civilization, and the advance of agriculture is more clearly marked by the history of the plough and its improvement, than in any other way; certain it is that the state of agriculture in any country can now be ascertained almost at a glance by surveying the implements by which the husbandry of the country is carried on. If the ploughs are ill-formed, clumsy and old fashioned; if the process of farming is conducted on the same principles and by the same means and methods which have characterized them for centuries, the fact may speak well for the stability of their habits, but very little for their intelligence, methods of enquiry, or public spirit. It may indeed be asserted that the history of the plough is the history of agriculture, and as the necessary consequences of civilization; and in this view this implement of the farmer assumes an importance in the eyes of many, it might not otherwise possess.

Nothing can be more simple than the most ancient species of the plough; and as in some parts of the East a thousand years passes with as little impression on the manners, customs, and implements of the inhabitants, as on their temples or their pyramids, or rather with much less show of change, we may reasonably suppose that the primitive plough, such as was first used for tilling the ground may still be found in the East. The earliest figure of the plough may be seen on the images of Osiris the god of the Pharaohs, and was formed of a part of a tree, the principal stem forming the beam or part by which it was drawn, and a main branch, cut to the proper length and point, was the part that moved the ground. To this point was sometimes secured a sharp stone, or a small plate of iron, and this, drawn by a team of heifers, or an ass and a heifer, or not unfrequently by men, constituted the plough of the ancients.

A plough on the same general principles is now used by the Arabs and the Moors of north Africa, one of which is figured in Riley's narrative, and offers a curious illustration of the unchanging nature of things in the East.

Among the implements of agriculture enumerated by Hesiod, (900 years before Christ,) are ploughs and carts. The plough consisted of three parts, the beam, handle and share. Hesiod directs the beam to be made of oak, and the other parts of elm, and they were fastened with nails.

This is clearly an improvement on the other, both in the convenience of handling, and as an implement for moving the earth. Its effect, however, could not have been much greater than that produced by the single share or foot of the modern cultivator, and would be useless except on soils partially mellowed by digging. Indeed all the early ploughs were adapted to a warm climate and sandy soil, where no turf ever formed, or vegetable fibre or roots bound the earth. No implement has yet been discovered among the ancient tools of the tiller of the soil, which would stand a moment the power exerted by the modern plough, or break up what we term a green sward. In countries where the grasses formed a turf, the sward was cut and turned by the spade and hand, as is clear from ancient representations of agriculture, and when once the ground had been broken up it was kept under a course of cropping until completely exhausted, when another was subjected to the same process, and the former left to recruit itself by the slow operation of unassisted nature. To the improved plough alone do we owe the modern system of rotation in the cultivation of the soil, a system which has increased the productions of the earth, and the means of subsistence, an hundred fold.

Perhaps in no part of the world that has any pretentions to civilization, are the implements of agriculture, and the process of farming, so rude as in some parts of Poland. A traveller in that country says,—"we have seen lands ploughed, (after their manner,) by one cow tied by the horns to the trunk of a young fir tree, one of the roots sharpened and acting as a share, and the other serving the ploughman as a handle."

The strait stick that serves for a yoke, is tied to the horns of cows, and the marks made by this wooden implement are termed ploughing. It is not a little mortifying to us, that grain raised on soils cultivated in this rude manner, and by these half civilized boors, should have been brought from Dantzic last year to give bread to Americans, with their fertile soil and improved implements of farming.

Such were the ploughs in the infancy of agriculture; and such they still are, in all places where improvement has been shut out, where the mechanical arts are unknown, and where the intelligence of the great mass shows they have not as yet advanced beyond the dawn of civilization. The plough of the modern peasant of Italy is but a shade better than that used by the Arab on the plains of north Africa, and the one which serves the boor of Finland and Bothnia, is scarcely ad-

vanced in mechanical structure beyond the one which was used by the "men of Thebes or Memphis." The plough of England and America, in its improved form, is probably the most perfect implement used in the process of agriculture, and there is no one that has done so much to lessen the severity of labor in moving the earth, or rendering it productive of the various vegetables necessary as means of subsistance. Figures in this case are not necessary, as every farmer knows the difference in execution between a good plough and a poor one, and the making of them has been reduced to a more complete system, than that perhaps of any other implement.

The principal varieties of the modern plough, are the kinds called the Swing plough the Wheel plough, and Turn-wrest ploughs. To the first kind belong all those in common use in this country and in England. In that country the kind called the Scotch plough, improved by Mr. Small, and sometimes called by his name, is the most approved. It is now usually made wholly of iron. Those that have been imported into this country, or made on a similar plan here, have not met with as favorable a reception from our farmers, as, from their reputation at home, they would seem to deserve. There are several ploughs constructed in this country of wood and cast iron, which are preferred as being less weighty and clumsy, quite as easy and good in working, and procured at a much less expense. It must be admitted, however, that too many of the ploughs used in this country, are very imperfectly constructed, and have the leading characteristics of Pindar's razors—that of being made to sell. An implement of such essential service to the farmer as the plough, should always be well made on scientific principles, and lightness should, as far as possible, be combined with strength in their construction.

The *Wheel plough* has been but little used in the United States. It may occasionally be seen on the Dutch and German farms on the rich intervals of the Mohawk. Wheel ploughs require little skill on the part of the ploughman, the depth and width of the forrow being adjusted by the wheels; but they are of necessity heavier, more expensive, easier clogged and put out of order, and require a stronger team than the common plough.—They have been introduced into the western States and must be invaluable on the immense river bottoms, and fertile prairies of the west. A traveller in that region asserts that he has seen a Sucker* at work on his magnificent prairie of hundreds of acres, riding at his leisure on his two wheeled plough, drawn by a strong and beautiful team, and practicing Mayerbeer's Sonnets on his violin, while without care or effort on his part, the ploughing was done in the very best manner. We confess this mode of riding while ploughing would agree far better with our ideas of comfort, than that practiced by the ploughmen of the plains of Rome and Naples, who use a plough the head of which is a plank pointed with iron, awkardly connected with a crooked beam, to which a yoke of wild looking half broken oxen are attached by thongs of rawhide. On this plank the ploughman stands, and by his position upon it, regulates to a great degree, the depth to which the earth is moved.

Turn-wrest ploughs, admit of having the mould board removed from one side to the other at the end of the furrow, so that the earth may always be thrown one way.—They are similar in construction and effect to what we term side hill ploughs, and which are so valuable in some situations. There are other places, too, in which such a plough operates admirably; and it is probable a great expenditure of labor would be prevented were such ploughs more frequent.

One of the most striking differences between ploughing in England and the United States, is in the amount of team required to perform the same labor. Mr. M'Cullough, in his statistical notices of the British Empire says, "Perhaps the imperfect construction of the majority of the English ploughs, their great weight, and the extensive employment of those with wheels, may be one cause why, in England a greater number of horses than are necessary, are employed in them.—If we except the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, in the south of England, and those of Northumberland, Cumberland, Durham, and Westmoreland, in the north, there is none perhaps, in which not more than two horses will be seen in a plough. In some counties, teams of three, four, and very frequently five horses are employed in the tiliage of the lightest soils; and on heavy soils, a still greater number are sometimes made use of. Thus in the vale of Gloucester seven horses may be seen attached to one plough. Notwithstanding this excess of horses the furrow is seldom above four inches deep on light, and six inches on heavy soils, nor is there generally more than three fourths of an acre ploughed in a day. Of course where there are more

*The citizens of Illinois glory in this appellative.

than three horses, a driver as well as ploughman is necessary. The horses are invariably, almost, yoked in line; so that when the fields are small, and the turnings consequently numerous, most part of the work is done by two, or rather by one horse." The Duke of Bedford attempted to introduce ploughing with the teams abreast, as practiced in this country, and arranged the horses for this purpose with his own hands but the ploughman could not be induced to adopt the improvement for a long time, preferring to use three or even five in a string, to two or four in pairs.

Ploughing matches, as every one acquainted with the foreign agricultural journals must know, have done much to do away the above unfarmerlike system of ploughing; and wherever they have been held for a few years, horses in line, are never seen at the plough. It is now generally admitted that the greatest defect in English agriculture is the waste of time and labor in ploughing; in this country there is very little loss on this account, the great difficulty here is the imperfect manner in which this work is done. In this country, more than two horses to a plough are rarely seen, and experience shows that with such a team of firmness and strength the work can be done far better than with any other number of horses. The principles which should regulate the plough and ploughing, are every day becoming better understood in this country, but still there is much for the farmer to learn before he can consider himself arrived at the perfection of the art. No description or delineation can teach like practice, and he who fancies he is above the plough must never expect to thrive by it. In this point of view, ploughing exhibitions, like the one annually held at Pittsfield, the one held this year at Hoboken, and those held in the several counties of this state by the agricultural societies, formed under the law of 1817, are productive of immense benefit. Witnessing work neatly and skillfully done will always have a tendency to induce the observer to perform his in the same way; the advantages of a good plough over a poor one are made apparent, and thus improvements in this valuable implement are encouraged; the farmer himself is taught to hold his business in a more just, and consequently higher estimation; and he learns to look upon the plough, as the key that unlocks the treasures of the earth, and by the aid of his labor places them at his disposal. Let the farmer then venerate the plough.—*Genessee Farmer.*

From the Gallatin Union.

AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION.

LEBANON, WILSON COUNTY, TENN.
November 19th, 1838.

The Convention of Delegates from the Agricultural Societies of Tennessee, met this day, pursuant to public notice. On motion of Col. Finley, of Wilson, Maj. E. Bush, of Sumner, took the Chair, and on motion of Gen. Caruthers, F. H. GORDON was elected Secretary. Delegates present—From Sumner county, Maj John G. Turner, Maj E. Bush and Elijah Boddie, Esq. From Wilson county, Col. O. G. Finley, Gen. Rob. L. Caruthers, Maj. Rutherford Butler, Josiah S. McClain, Joseph P. Wharton, Maj. Benjamin T. Motley, and Maj. Jas. C. Jones. From Smith county, F. H. Gordon. Thus it appeared that only three counties were represented.

On motion of Gen. Caruthers, the convention resolved that a Committee of three be appointed to report on to-morrow such matters as may be advisable for this Convention to act upon. Thereupon, E. Boddie, Esq. of Sumner, Gen. Caruthers of Wilson and F. H. Gordon of Smith, were appointed to constitute said committee.

On motion of Gen. Caruthers, the Convention adjourned to meet on to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock.

November 20th, 9 *o'clock A. M.*

The Convention assembled pursuant to adjourment. The report of the committee was read by the chairman which is as follows:

The committee to whom it was referred to take into consideration and report the matter proper for the action of this Convention, have had the same under consideration and beg leave to

REPORT,

That there are several subjects that would be fit and proper for their action, that they consider it inexpedient now to recommend on account of the failure of so many of the societies of the State to send delegates.—Your committee are not disposed, however, to attribute this seemingly discouraging event to a want of interest in the great cause of agriculture; but to some uncertainty as to the time and place, produced by an anonymus writer in the Tennessee Farmer, and the inclemency of the weather. They would not allow themselves to believe that the farming community should otherwise have permitted an opportunity so favorable for taking some

measure for their good, to have passed unimproved. But your committee seeing that three among the strongest counties in the State are represented, are unwilling to adjourn without adopting some measure calculated to promote the great objects they have in view. They can at least take the responsibility of fixing a time and place for a convention of representatives of all the counties in the State. They have no doubt but that the certainty thereby produced would secure a full attendance of members from every quarter. This committee would therefore now propose for the consideration of the convention the following resolutions:

1st. Resolved. That a committee of three be appointed to prepare for publication, a report, setting forth the importance and objects of a general convention of delegates from all the county agricultural societies that are or may be formed in this State—And that they particularly present subjects for the consideration and action of said convention, with arguments in favor of the same. 1st. The formation of a State agricultural society and a State board of agriculture to consist of practical and scientific farmers. 2nd. the best plan of obtaining the countenance and aid of the Legislature to the interest of agriculture. 3rd. The establishment of an agricultural paper for the State, to be the organ of all the Societies in the State, and to be patronized and supported by them, and to serve as the vehicle of all usefull information, calculated to improve the condition of the farming community, &c. And lastly, such views, arguments and remarks as they may consider fit and proper, to stimulate the community to a more general interest in the improvements of the day in the business of farming, and the proper directions of labor in this climate.

2nd. Resolved, That a general agricultural convention assemble on the 1st Monday in May, 1839, in the town of Lebanon; to consist of not more than three members from each county, to consider of the matters presented in the first resolution, and such other matters as the may think proper.

3d. Resolved, That every society is hereby particularly requested to send delegates to said convention.

4th. Resolved, That the several agricultural, political and relegious periodicals of the State be requested to publish these proceedings, and the report that may be prepared by the committee, to be appointed under the first resolution, and that they continue in their columns a brief notice of the time and place of the meeting of said convention until the time arrives.

All which is respectfully submitted.

ELIJAH BODDIE,
F. H. GORDON,
ROBT. L. CARUTHERS.
Committee.

All of which, after some discussion, was passed. Thereupon the President nominated E. Boddie Esq. Robert L. Caruthers and F. H. Gordon, to compose said committee as contemplated in the first resolution.

Josiah S. M'Clain, of Wilson, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That F. H. Gordon, of Smith, and the Hon. E. Dillahunty, of Maury, be appointed to address the agricultural Convention to assemble on the 1st Monday in May next, immediately after its organization.

By R. L. Caruthers, of Wilson, the following was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That the Editors or publishers of the several Agricultural papers be invited to attend the convention.

The Convention adjourned.

E. BUSH, President.
F. H. GORDON, Secretary.

GREASE FOR WHEEL-AXLES.

"What is the best *grease* for wheels?" said one *whip* to another the other day. "*Tar*," said the other. "*Tar!* I despise tar, and grease *won't stay there.*" Now had they put the question to our *grave selves*, we could have told them of a valuable material to diminish friction, not only in carriage-wheel boxes, but in all machinery whatever. The composition, we believe, was first used in the iron-works on the Boston mill-dam, and consists of *soapstone*, finely pulverised, and mixed with grease or soft tallow. It is an excellent application—a real *anti-frictionist Maine Farmer.*

The soap-stone may be cheaper, but it is neither so convenient nor (we are inclined to think) so good as that best of all lubricators—*black-lead.* ED. TEN. FAR.

ROHAN POTATOES.—In our last number, we recorded the fact, that friend Orsment, of the United Society, had raised one bushel of potatoes from a single tuber. We have now to notice, that the Hon. William Clark, Jr. of Northampton, raised *two bushels and one peck*, from one Rohan potatoe.—*Yankee Farmer.*

From the Farmers' Cabinet.

GRASS AND GRASS SEED.

A Farmer never thrives unless he raises abundant crops of grass; for grass and hay feed stock, make manure, and with plenty of manure, grain and every other agricultural product is easily brought into existence, but without manure, which is the food of all plants, farming would soon come to a full stop; as well might we expect a mill to grind without water, or a watch to keep time without a mainspring, as for grass and grain to grow and thrive without being furnished with food. I have never yet known a prime good farmer that did not pay especial attention to raising the greatest possible quantity of grass, and I have never known one that did so, but what was more than amply remunerated for his expense and trouble. It is painful to see within twenty miles of Philadelphia, Indian or wood grass still maintaining its original position in some fields and meadows, when lime that can be so easily and cheaply procured would soon destroy it and supply its place with something alike creditable and profitable to the cultivator of the soil. Grass seed should always be sowed evenly and in quantities to coat the surface with a sufficient number of plants to exclude weeds; there should be no room left for *unbidden guests* to seat themselves. Red clover, which should always be one of the grasses sown, on account of its large product, taproot, and the fine condition in which it leaves the soil, weighs from 60 to 64 lbs. a bushel, and a bushel will sow from six to eight acres. The seed of timothy being small, one peck to the acre is sufficient. Orchard grass seed being chaffy and light, should be applied at the rate of from one to two bushels per acre, and herd grass, or redtop as it is sometimes called, one bushel to the acre. There should always be at least two, if not three of these kinds of seed sown together to insure a good crop, so that if one partially fails, the others may furnish a supply of plants. The loss or failure of a crop of grass is too serious an affair to run any risk about that can possibly be avoided; therefore sow plenty of different kinds on the same ground; and if you don't raise your own seed, be careful of whom you buy, lest you get an impure or damaged article, for

Cheap seed is always the dearest in the end.

AGRICOLA.

N. B. Orchard grass is said to have stood the late severe drought the best, and timothy to have suffered the most by it of any artificial grasses; but it is perhaps yet too early to form a decisive opinion on this subject.

CULTURE OF ONIONS.

The town of Wethersfield (Conn.) has long been famous for the large quantities of onions which are annually raised and exported to the West Indies and the southern states. It has been superstitiously supposed there is something in the soil of Wethersfield peculiarly adapted to the culture of onions; and this whim has no doubt discouraged many from attempting the cultivation of this valuable root, in other sections of the country, equally favorable to its growth. It is true the soil of Wethersfield is a rich gravelly and sandy loam, well adapted to horticultural purposes; but the success of its inhabitants in the culture of onions, is attributable in a much greater degree, to a particular virtue in the fingers of its females, than any peculiar properties in its soil.

The business of raising onions in Wethersfield, is reduced to a perfect system. The following is the method of cultivation: Early in the spring the land is manured by ploughing in fine manure from the stable or barn-yard, in the proportion of about ten loads to the acre. That of neat cattle is preferred, as that of horses is considered of too heating a nature. After the manure is ploughed in, the land is well harrowed and laid out into beds five feet wide. The beds are laid out by turning a furrow towards them each way. This raises the beds above the aisles and gives an opportunity for the water to run off should there be occasion for it. They are then raked with an iron-tooth or common hay-rake, and the aisles suffered to remain as left by the plough. Thus prepared, the beds are ready to receive the seeds.

As early as the season will admit, the seed is sown in the following manner. A rake, with teeth a foot apart, is drawn crosswise of the beds, for the purpose of making drills for the reception of the seed. The seed is then sowed in the drill, with the thumb and fingers, and covered with the hand. From ten to twelve pounds of seed is put upon an acre. After the plants come up they are kept free of weeds, which generally require four weedings. A hoe of a suitable width to pass between the rows is used in weeding, which saves much labor. When ripe they are pulled and the tops cut off with a knife. A sufficient length of top is left to tie them to the straw in roping. They are then roped

or bunched in ropes or bunches of 3 1-2 pounds, as required by the law of the state.—An ordinary crop is from 6000 to 8000 ropes to the acre. The quantity annually raised in the town, is estimated from 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 ropes which are sold at an average price of $2 a hundred, amounting to from $20,000 to $30,000.—*Con. Paper.*

The Farmer when he looks forward to the immense amount of labor which is before him—the long lines of fence to be made or repaired—the legions of sprouts, brambles and weeds to be exterminated—the new ground to be cleared, or the old and worn-out to be reclaimed—the large crop to be worked or harvested, and the many other tedious and formidable jobs of which the farmer need not be reminded, he is sometimes strongly tempted to sit down in despair, to "stop" short in his labors, or to abandon his calling altogether. To such we commend the moral of the following ancient and veracious legend.

ED. TEN. FARM.

THE DISCONTENTED PENDULUM.

An old clock that had stood for forty years in a farmer's kitchen without giving its owner any cause of complaint, early one summer's morning, before the family was stirring, suddenly stopped. Upon this the dial plate—if we may credit the fable—changed countenance with alarm; the hands made a vain effort to continue their course; the wheels remained motionless with surprise, the weights hung speechless; each member felt disposed to lay the blame on the others.—At length the dial instituted a formal inquiry as to the cause of the stagnation, when hands, wheels and weights, with one voice, protested their innocence.

But not a faint tick was heard below from the pendulum, who thus spoke: 'I confess myself to be the sole cause of the present stopping, and I am willing, for the general satisfaction, to assign my reasons. The truth is that I am tired of ticking.' Upon hearing this, the old clock became so enraged that it was on the very point of striking.

'Lazy wire!' exclaimed the dial plate, holding up its hands. 'Very good!' replied the pendulum. 'It is vastly easy for you, Mistress Dial, who as every body knows, have always set yourself above me—it is vastly easy for you, I say, to accuse other people of laziness—you, who have nothing to do all the days of your life but to stare people in the face and to amuse yourself. Think, I beseech you, how you would like to be shut up for life in this dark closet, and wag backwards and forwards year after year as I do.'

'As to that,' said the dial, is there not a window in your house on purpose for you to look through? 'For all that,' resumed the pendulum, 'it is very dark here; and, although there is a window, I dare not stop even for an instant to look at it. Besides, I am really tired of my way of life, and, if you wish, I'll tell you how I took this disgust at my employment. I happened this morning to be calculating how many times I should have to tick in course of only the next twenty-four hours. Perhaps some of you above there can give the exact sum.'

The minute hand, being quick at figures, presently replied. 'eighty thousand four hundred times.' 'Exactly so, replied the pendulum. 'Well, I appeal to you all if the very thought of this was not enough to fatigue one. And when I began to multiply the strokes of one day by those of months and years, really it is no wonder if I felt discouraged at the prospect; so, after a great deal of reasoning and hesitation, thinks I to myself I'll stop."

The dial could scarcely keep its countenance during this language, but, resuming its gravity, thus replied: 'Dear Mr. pendulum, I am really astonished that such a useful industrious person as yourself should have been overcome by this sudden action. It is true you have done a great deal of work in your time—so have we all, and are likely to do, which, although it may fatigue us to think of, the question is whether it will fatigue us to do. Will you now do me the favor to give about half a dozen strokes to illustrate my argument?'

The pendulum complied, and ticked six times in its usual place. 'Now,' resumed the dial, 'I may be allowed to inquire if that exertion was at all fatiguing or disagreeable to you?' 'Not in the least,' replied the pendulum. 'It is not of six strokes that I complain, nor of sixty, but of millions.' 'Very good,' replied the dial; 'but recollect that though you may think of a million of strokes in an instant, you are required to execute but one, and that, however often you may hereafter have to swing, a moment will always be given you to swing in.' 'That consideration staggers me, I confess,' said the pendulum.—'Then I hope,' resumed the dial plate, 'we shall all immediately return to our duty, for the maids will lie in bed if we stand idling thus.'

Upon this the weights, who had never been accused of light conduct, used all their influence in urging him to proceed, when, as with one consent, the wheels began to turn, the hands began to move, the pendulum began to swing, and to its credit ticked as loud as ever, while, a red beam of the rising sun that streamed through a hole in the kitchen shining full upon the dial plate, it brightened up as if nothing had been the matter.

From the Cultivator.

EXPERIMENT IN HARVESTING CORN.

In our last November No. we gave the result of an experiment in harvesting corn, going to show, that it is better to cut it up than to top it. We now give the result of another experiment of the same kind.

In the first week of September, we went with two neighbors into our cornfield, where our men were cutting up corn, and caused 36 hills to be cut up, where we found them at work, which was of the fair average quality of the field, and stooked separately; adjoining which 36 hills were topped, in the usual way; and a third parcel of 36 hills, immediately adjoining the last, was left to ripen upon the entire stock. On the 23d September we proceeded to pick, husk and weigh the corn on the several parcels. The result was as follows:

No. 1, cut up, had 126 ears, which weighed 56½ lbs.
No. 2, topped, " 127 " " " 52 lbs. 2 oz.
No. 3, standing, " 125 " " " 52 lbs 10 oz.

We found on trial, the same evening, that it required 78 lbs. of ears to give a bushel of shelled corn. The field was planted at exactly three feet between the rows, and at about two feet four inches in the rows, but assuming that the distance was three by two and a half feet, it would give to the acre 5,808 hills—and there probably was not 20 hills deficent in five acres. Upon these data the product on an acre, under the different modes of harvesting, would be as follows, omitting fractions:

No. 1 would give 9,274 lbs. or 119 bushels.
No. 2 " 8,409½ " 108 "
No. 3 " 8,490 " 109 "

Although the parcels selected were supposed to be similar, it was perceived, after the corn was gathered, that an apple tree, giving a shade 6 to 7 feet broad, stood in No. 3—the whole field being a young orchard—which undoubtedly had an influence in lessening the product of that parcel—as it might reasonably have been expected to have exceeded that of No. 1.

In regard to the condition of the grain, of the different parcels, that of No. 1, which had been cut up and stooked, was unquestionably best: it was dry, sound and bright; while much of Nos. 2 and 3, which had been topped, or left standing entire, had fallen upon the ground, was wet or mouldy, and some of it had actually grown. The difference in the fodder was still more palpably in favor of No. 1—it evidently exceeding in value either of the other parcels more than one half.

Our neighbors, C. N. Bement and Sidney Chapin, were present, and assisted, in the cutting up, topping, picking, husking, weighing and examining, the several parcels, and have authorized us to say that they fully concur in the preceding statement.

In our experiment of last year, the loss in topping, over cutting up, was found to be about six bushels; in the above detailed experiment it appears to be eleven bushels on the acre. It will also be observed, on referring to our former experiment, that the number of ears, and the product, is less this than it was last year. This has been caused by the drought. None of the succors produced ears this year, though many produced them last year.

This experiment confirms us in the opinion we have long entertained, that there is a prodigious waste, both in corn and forage, and we insist in labor also, in the still common practice of topping corn. And we again beg, that those who remain incredulous in the matter, will make the experiment, as we have repeatedly, done, and satisfy themselves. Say there are 300,000 acres of corn cultivated in this state, and that the loss by topping is only five bushels to the acre, the aggregate loss would amount to 1,500,000 bushels, equal at least in value to one million of dollars annually, to say nothing of the loss in labor and forage.

The *cause* of the topped corn having produced less than that which was cut up, although often stated, is here repeated: the topped corn was deprived of its elaborating organs—its lungs—the leaves above the grain, and of course received no farther accession of growth, or but very little; while the corn cut up retainted these organs, which continued to send down nourishment to the grain for some days through its green succulent stocks. Any farmer may satisfy himself readily that leaves are indispensable to growth, by a simple and easy experiment:—let him pluck all the leaves from a fruit-bearing branch of the apple, plum, or other fruit tree, at any stage of growth of the fruit—and he will find that the fruit on such limb will neither grow nor mature its flavor where there are no leaves—though it may change its colour.

EARTHLY PLEASURES.—There dwells in every man, a passionate longing for a better world, which he tries to assuage by earthly pleasures, as the women in India put snakes into their bosom for coolness; but, ours gnaw into the heart, and it perishes, with its feverish thirst unslaked.

PAINTING BUILDINGS.

It is thought by some persons that all the expense laid out in painting buildings is thrown away, or what amounts to about the same thing, that buildings are painted merely for show and to gratify the vanity of the owner. This however, in most cases is very far from being the [illegible] although in some instances it may be true to some extent,—for we have sometimes noticed buildings with the front and ends, which are most exposed to view, painted, while all other parts of it are left to rot down in their natural state. The object for which paint should be put on, is to protect the building from the weather, and preserve it from decay; and that kind of paint which will most effectually do this, is the best. A building kept well painted with white lead, will last two or three time as long as one will without painting. Therefore money laid out in painting buildings is as usefully and as profitably expended as it can be in almost any other way we can use it.

There are some who think that a coat of paint will be more durable if it strikes into the wood; and to effect this they will let work stand for a few weeks or months after it is put up, in order to let the grains of wood open to receive the paint. This is a very great error, and one which ought to be corrected. The very object of painting, which we have before stated to be to form a permanent coat or crust on the outside of the building, and protect it from the weather, is, in such case, partially defeated, besides it takes nearly double to paint, which occasions a great waste. In order to derive the greatest benefit at the least expense, the paint should be applied as soon as possible after the work is put up.

It has been found by various experiments that the months of September and October are the best time in the whole year for painting the outside of buildings. If paint be applied in the very hottest weather in summer, the oil is evaporated so rapidly that enough of it is not left to combine with and retain the whole of the lead and form a durable coat. This is the reason why the paint on many buildings will rub off, and it washes off by heavy rains, for which reason buildings painted in June, July and August, need painting much sooner than those painted when the weather is cooler. But if the paint be applied in September or October, when the rays of the sun are less powerful, the oil evaporates more slowly, and enough of it remains to combine with the lead and form a more permanent covering for the wood. It also has the whole of the autumn, winter and spring months, to harden in, and the rays of the sun, however powerful the next season, cannot effect it. April and May are favorable times for painting when the weather is good, and in fact any time in the whole year, is better than midsummer.

A great variety of articles have been substituted for lead in forming the basis of paints; and doubtless many of them answer a tolerable purpose for a year or two,—that is, they look very well, and are much cheaper, which induces many to use them; but we question whether any one has been found that will form so permanent and durable a coat, and so completely protect the building from the weather, as lead mixed with linseed oil. Besides, a white cottage in the country contrasts so beautifully with the green foliage around it, that we can but admire it.

Among the many substitutes for lead, we think the following as durable and cheap as any in use, and it is said to render wood fire proof.

Make a pickle by boiling three quarts of good rock salt in three gallons of water, and skim it clean. Pour it off, in order to free it from the impurity that will settle to the bottom. Add to it one pound of alum, and one half a pound of copperas powdered fine. Slack a quantity of fresh lime sufficient to make one and a half gallons of white wash, as thick as good molasses in cold weather and add to the pickle, and stir it well. Pound three quarters of a pound of first quality pot-ash fine, and mix it with four quarts of fine sand, and stir it in gradually—and add coloring matter to make it any shade you desire. Clean hard wood ashes may be used instead of sand, if more convenient. It should be kept moderately hot while it is being put on. —*Maine Farmer.*

Linen rags should be carefully saved they are useful in sickness; if dirty or worn wash them and scrape them into lint.

Vials which have been used for medicine should be put into cold ashes and water, boiled, and suffered to cool before rinsed.

Cotton, wet with sweet oil and paragoric, relieves the ear-ache very soon.

Honey and milk are good for cats.

Half a spoonful citric acid, stirred in half a tumbler of water, is excellent for the headache —*Frederic Times and Democratic Advocate.*

INSTINCT.

Notes from White's Natural History of Selborne.

The Cuckoo.—Your observation that the Cuckoo does not deposite its egg indiscriminately in the nest of the first bird that comes in its way, but probably looks out a nurse in some degree of its own species, with whom to intrust its young, is new to me.—This proceeding of the Cuckoo, of dropping its eggs, as it were by chance, is such a monstrous outrage on maternal affection, one of the first great dictates of nature, and such a violence on instinct, that had it only been related of a bird in the Brazils or Peru, it would never have merited our belief. But yet, should it farther appear that this simple bird, when divested of that natural affection that seems to raise the kind in general above themselves, and inspire them with extraordinary degrees of cunning and address, may be still endowed with a more enlarged faculty of discerning what species are suitable nursing mothers for its disregarded eggs and young, and may deposit them only under *their* care; this would be adding wonder to wonder, and instancing, in a fresh manner that the methods of Providence are not subject to any mode or rule, but astonishes in new lights, and in various and changeable appearances. What Job says of the ostrich, (xxxix, 16, 17,) may be well applied to the Cuckoo.

Dusters.—Birds of the *gallinae* order, as common fowls, dust themselves, and in that method cleanse their feathers, and rid themselves of vermin. Might not Mahomet and his followers take one method of purification from the Dusters? because I find from travellers of credit, that if a strict mussulman is journeying in a sandy desert where no water is to be found, at stated hours he strips off his clothes, and most scrupulously rubs his body over with sand or dust.

The Tortoise.—I was much taken with its sagacity in discerning those that do it kind offices; for as soon as the good old lady came in sight, who has waited on it for more than thirty years it hobbles towards its benefactress with awkward alacrity, but remains inattentive to strangers. Thus not only the ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib, but the most abject reptile and torpid of beings, distinguishes the hand that feeds it.

Natural Affection.—This affection sublimes the passions, quickens the invention, and sharpens the sagacity of the brute creation. Thus a hen just become a mother, is no longer that placid bird she used to be, but with feathers standing on end, wings hovering, and clacking note, she runs about like one possessed. Dames will throw themselves in the way of the greatest danger, in order to avert it from their progeny. Thus, a partridge will tumble along before a sportsman, in order to draw away the dogs from the hapless covey. In the time of nest-building the most feeble birds will assault the most rapacious. All the hirundines of a village are up in arms at the sight of a hawk, whom they will persecute till he leaves that district. A pair of ravens nesting in the rock of Gibraltar, would suffer no vulture or eagle to rest near their station, but would drive them from the hill with an amazing fury; even the blue thrush at this season, would dart out from the clifts of the rocks, to chase away the kestril or the sparrowhawk. If you stand near the nest of a bird that has young, she will not be induced to betray them by an inadvertent fondness, but will wait about at a distance with food in her mouth, for an hour together.

Opening Nuts.—There are three creatures, the squirrel, the field mouse, and the bird called the nuthawk, which live much on hazelnuts, and yet they open them each in a different way. The first, after rasping off the small end, splits the shell in two with his long foreteeth, as a man does with his knife; the second nibbles a hole with his teeth, as regularly as if drilled with a wimble, and yet so small [illegible] would wonder how the kernel could be extracted through it; while the last picks an irregular, jagged hole with his bill. But as this artist has no claws to hold the nut firm while he pierces it like an adroit workman, he fixes it, as it were in a vice, in some cleft of a tree, or in some crevice then, standing over it he perforates the stubborn [illegible].

Flax Prepared by Machinery.—An invention has recently been made which bids fair in course of time to effect a revolution equal to that accomplished by the invention of the Cotton Gin. It has been put into practical operation and produces flax of a fineness that is capable of being converted into cloth of any texture by the same process as cotton. Experiment has shown that linen cloth now selling in our markets for sixty cents may be produced at a cost of only twenty-five cents. We have a sample of the flax which in fineness and the disposition of its fibres resemble cotton, while it preserves the strength and lustre of flax—*N. Y. Post.*

ODD SCRAPS FOR THE ECONOMICAL.

By Mrs. Child.

If you would avoid waste in your family attend to the following rules, and not dispise them because they appear so unimportant; 'many a little makes a mickle.'

When ivory handled knives turn yellow rub them with nice sand paper or emory; it will take off spots and restore whiteness.

Silk pocket handkerchiefs and deep blue factory, will not fade, if dipped into salt water while new.

Spots in furniture may be easily cleansed by rubbing them with a piece of flannel wet with the same thing that took out the color; if rum, wet the cloth with rum, &c.

Lamps will have a less disagreeable smell to steep the wick in vinegar and let it dry.

Clean the brass kettle before using it for cooking, with salt and vinegar.

The oftener carpets are shaken, the longer they wear; the dirt that collects under them grinds the thread.

Payments for the Tennessee Farmer, from Nov. 1, to 6th Dec., 1838.

Col. J. Preston, 3; Dr. H. Helm, 2; H. Baker, 2; Jno. Crook, 1 50; R. M. Aycock, 1; Col. E. Harleston, 2; R. F. Campbell, 1; L. Renau, 3; J. W. Monson, 1 50; G. W. Murrel, 3; W. C. Hile, 2; W. B. Clark, 2; W. P. McCampbell, 1; J. C. McEwen, 1.

Printed at the office of the "Tennessee Sentinel."